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17 August 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: EE/Plans

Michael POPPE

SUBJECT: Utilization of Karl Bergstrom to prepare a psychological warfare program for Soviet Central Asia.

1. In anticipation of the time when we will be able to launch a propaganda broadside against Soviet Central Asia, it is imperative that we begin now to develop the PW program which will ultimately be used.

2. Therefore, it is proposed that Karl Bergstrom be asked to develop broad propaganda themes to be employed in a PW campaign against Soviet Central Asia. The themes should be supported in each case by factual or analytical reasons demonstrating why the seeds to be sown would fall on fertile ground.

3. Although by no means exhaustive, some of the possible approaches to this problem are briefly outlined below:

a. A determination of the psychological temperament and social reaction pattern of Central Asians in general, including indications of where and to what extent local conditions modify the over-all pattern.

b. Specific indications as to how and to what extent the Soviet regime has thwarted the natural development of the Islamic way of life, including detailed examples of religious, economic, and social restrictions imposed by the Soviets.

c. An examination of the theory and practice of the Soviet nationality policy in order to discover general weaknesses and discrepancies that could be exploited. Facts clearly demonstrating that the Soviet nationality policy is in reality a subtle program of Russification would be particularly useful.

d. A determination of those factors which tend to increase the Central Asiatics' awareness of the uniqueness and preferability of their traditional culture and to undermine adherence to the imposed Soviet culture.

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